

SOCIETY AND HEALTH CARE IN
AMERICAN HISTORY
History of Medicine 504
Fall, 2006

Instructor: Ronald L. Numbers (Office: 1432 MSC, 1300 University Ave.)

Office Hours: 10:00-11:00 Tuesdays & Thursdays

Class Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:15

Place: 1010 MSC, 1300 University Ave.

Credits: Three

Prerequisites: Junior standing and consent of instructor

Description: This course is designed to acquaint students with the history of health care in America. Although the focus will be on the past, efforts will be made to relate the past to the present.

Instruction: The course will consist of seminar discussions and short presentations by the instructor and students.

Requirements: All students are required to attend class, read (and perhaps summarize) the assigned materials, prepare a short research paper, give one oral report, and take a final written or oral examination. Undergraduates will write a research paper of 5-10 double-spaced, typed pages, based on primary sources; graduate-student papers may be twice as long.

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated primarily on the basis of their research papers and final examinations, with attendance, reading summaries, and participation in class playing a secondary role.

Textbooks: Available at the UW Bookstore and on reserve at the Helen C. White Library.

Judith Walzer Leavitt and Ronald L. Numbers, eds., Sickness and Health in America: Readings in the History of Medicine and Public Health, 3rd ed. (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1997).

Paul Starr, The Social Transformation of American Medicine (New York: Basic Books, 1982).

Norman Gevitz, ed., Other Healers: Unorthodox Medicine in America (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988).

Information about the purchase of course readers will be given in class.

SCHEDULE

September	5	Introduction
	7	Researching and Writing Medical History (Ebling Library)
	12	Constructing Sickness and Health
	14	Medicine in the Old and New Worlds
	19	Professional Medicine
	21	Domestic Medicine
	26	Alternative Medicine
	28	Antebellum Medical Practice (paper proposals due)
October	3	Scientific Medicine
	5	Medical Education
	10	Medical Research
	12	Medical Ethics
	17	Religious Healers
	19	Midwives and Women Physicians
	24	Native American Healers
	26	Osteopaths and Chiropractors (outlines due)
	31	No Class (schedule individual appointments)
November	2	A Medical Monopoly?
	7	Hospitals and Dispensaries
	9	Mental Institutions
	14	Public Health
	16	Private Lifestyle
	21	Mortality and Its Causes
	23	THANKSGIVING
	28	Health Insurance
	30	The Medical-Industrial Complex
December	5	The Status and Image of Physicians
	7	Medicalization and Demedicalization
	12	Student Reports (papers due)
	14	Student Reports

ASSIGNMENTS

September 12: *Constructing Sickness and Health:*

Bert Hansen, "American Physicians' 'Discovery' of Homosexuals, 1880-1900: A New Diagnosis in a Changing Society," Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 13-31.

Daniel M. Fox and Judith F. Stone, "Black Lung: Miners' Militancy and Medical Uncertainty, 1968-1972," Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 32-44.

September 14: *Medicine in the Old and New Worlds:*

Starr, pp. 30-47.

Eric H. Christianson, "Medicine in New England," Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 47-71.

September 19: *Professional Medicine:*

Robert B. Sullivan, "Sanguine Practices: A Historical and Historiographic Reconsideration of Heroic Therapy in the Age of Rush," Bulletin of the History of Medicine 68 (1994): 211-34.

John Harley Warner, "From Specificity to Universalism in Medical Therapeutics: Transformation in the 19th-Century United States," Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 87-101.

September 21: *Domestic Medicine:*

Starr, pp. 47-59.

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, "Martha Moore Ballard and the Medical Challenge to Midwifery," Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 72-84.

William G. Rothstein, "The Botanical Movements and Orthodox Medicine," Gevitz, pp. 29-51.

September 26: *Alternative Medicine:*

Starr, pp. 93-112.

Susan E. Cayleff, "Gender, Ideology, and the Water-Cure Movement," Gevitz, pp. 82-98.

Martin Kaufman, "Homeopathy in America: The Rise and Fall and Persistence of a Medical Heresy," Gevitz, pp. 99-123.

September 28: *Antebellum Medical Practice:*

Starr, pp. 60-78.

Todd L. Savitt, "Black Health on the Plantation: Masters, Slaves, and Physicians," Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 351-368.

Steven M. Stowe, "Seeing Themselves at Work: Physicians and the Case Narrative in the Mid-19th-Century American South," *Leavitt & Numbers*, pp. 161-186.

October 3: ***Scientific Medicine:***

Starr, pp. 198-232.

Bert Hansen, "New Images of a New Medicine: Visual Evidence for Widespread Popularity of Therapeutic Discoveries in America after 1885," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 73 (1999): 629-678.

October 5: ***Medical Education:***

Starr, pp. 112-127.

Robert P. Hudson, "Abraham Flexner in Perspective: American Medical Education, 1865-1910," *Leavitt & Numbers*, pp. 200-210.

Todd L. Savitt, "Abraham Flexner and the Black Medical Schools," in *Beyond Flexner: Medical Education in the Twentieth Century*, Barbara Barzansky and Norman Gevitz, eds. (New York: Greenwood, 1992), 65-81.

October 10: ***Medical Research:***

Gerald L. Geison, "Divided We Stand: Physiologists and Clinicians in the American Context," *Leavitt & Numbers*, pp. 115-129.

Ronald L. Numbers and John Harley Warner, "The Maturation of American Medical Science," *Leavitt & Numbers*, pp. 130-142.

October 12: ***Medical Ethics:***

Todd L. Savitt, "The Use of Blacks for Medical Experimentation and Demonstration in the Old South," *Journal of Southern History* 48 (1982): 331-48.

Susan E. Lederer, "The Controversy over Animal Experimentation in America, 1880-1914," in *Vivisection in Historical Perspective*, ed. Nicolaas A. Rupke (London: Croom Helm, 1987), pp. 236-58.

Allan M. Brandt, "Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study," *Leavitt & Numbers*, pp. 392-404.

October 17: ***Religious Healers:***

Rennie B. Schoepflin, "Christian Science Healing in America," Gevitz, pp. 192-214.

David Edwin Harrell, Jr., "Divine Healing in Modern American Protestantism," Gevitz, pp. 215-227.

October 19: *Midwives and Women Physicians:*

Charlotte G. Borst, "The Training and Practice of Midwives: A Wisconsin Study,"
Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 237-252.

Regina Markell Morantz-Sanchez, "The 'Connecting Link': The Case for the Woman
Doctor in 19th-Century America," Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 213-224.

October 24: *Native American Healers:*

Stephen J. Kunitz, "The History and Politics of US Health Care Policy for American
Indians and Alaskan Natives," American Journal of Public Health 86 (1996): 1464-1473.

October 26: *Osteopaths and Chiropractors:*

Norman Gevitz, "Osteopathic Medicine: From Deviance to Difference," Gevitz,
pp. 124-156.

Walter I. Wardwell, "Chiropractors: Evolution to Acceptance," Gevitz, pp. 157-191.

October 31: *NO CLASS*November 2: *A Medical Monopoly?:*

Ronald L. Numbers, "The Fall and Rise of the American Medical Profession," Leavitt &
Numbers, pp. 225-236.

Norman Gevitz, "Autonomous Profession or Medical Specialty: The Stomatological
Movement and American Dentistry," Bulletin of the History of Medicine 62 (1988): 407-
428.

November 7: *Hospitals and Dispensaries:*

Starr, pp. 145-179.

Vanessa Northington Gamble, "Roots of the Black Hospital Reform
Movement," Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 369-391.

Charles E. Rosenberg, "Social Class and Medical Care in 19th-Century
America: The Rise and Fall of the Dispensary," Leavitt & Numbers,
pp. 309-322.

Morris J. Vogel, "Patrons, Practitioners, and Patients: The Voluntary
Hospital in Mid-Victorian Boston," Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 323-333.

November 9: ***Mental Institutions:***

Gerald N. Grob, "The Severely and Chronically Mentally Ill in America: Retrospect and Prospect," Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 334-348.

November 14: ***Public Health:***

Starr, pp. 180-197.

John Duffy, "Social Impact of Disease in the Late 19th Century," Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 418-425.

Allan M. Brandt, "AIDS in Historical Perspective: Four Lessons from the History of Sexually Transmitted Diseases," Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 426-434.

November 16: ***Private Lifestyle:***

Nancy Tomes, "The Private Side of Public Health: Sanitary Science, Domestic Hygiene, and the Germ Theory, 1870-1900," Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 506-528.

Allan M. Brandt, "The Cigarette, Risk, and American Culture," Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 494-505.

November 21: ***Mortality and Its Causes:***

Gerald N. Grob, "Disease and Environment in American History," in Handbook of Health, Health Care, and the Health Professions, ed. David Mechanic (New York: Free Press, 1983), pp. 3-22.

Gretchen A. Condran, Henry Williams, and Rose A. Cheney, "The Decline in Mortality in Philadelphia from 1870 to 1930: The Role of Municipal Services," Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 452-466.

John Parascandola, "The Introduction of Antibiotics into Therapeutics," Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 102-112.

November 23: ***THANKSGIVING***November 28: ***Health Insurance:***

Starr, pp. 290-334.

Ronald L. Numbers, "The Third Party: Health Insurance in America," Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 269-283.

November 30: *The Medical-Industrial Complex:*

Starr, pp. 379-449.

December 5: *The Status and Image of Physicians:*

Starr, pp. 79-92, 127-144.

John C. Burnham, "American Medicine's Golden Age: What Happened to It?" Leavitt & Numbers, pp. 284-294.

December 7: *Medicalization and Demedicalization:*

Judith Walzer Leavitt, "Birthing and Anesthesia: The Debate Over Twilight Sleep," Signs 6 (1980): 147-164.

Judith Houck, "The Medicalization of Menopause in America, 1897-2000: Mapping the Terrain," in Controversies in Science and Technology: From Maize to Menopause ed. Daniel Lee Kleinman, Abby J. Kinchy, and Jo Handelsman (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2005), 198-218.